# The Ancient Philosophers



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Though they racked and cudgeled their brains manfully over the problem, never could decide what would be the fate of a donkey who should find himself placed exactly midway between two piles of hay equally large and appetizing. Plainly enough, there would be

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no reason why the donkey should take one hay-rick rather than the other :

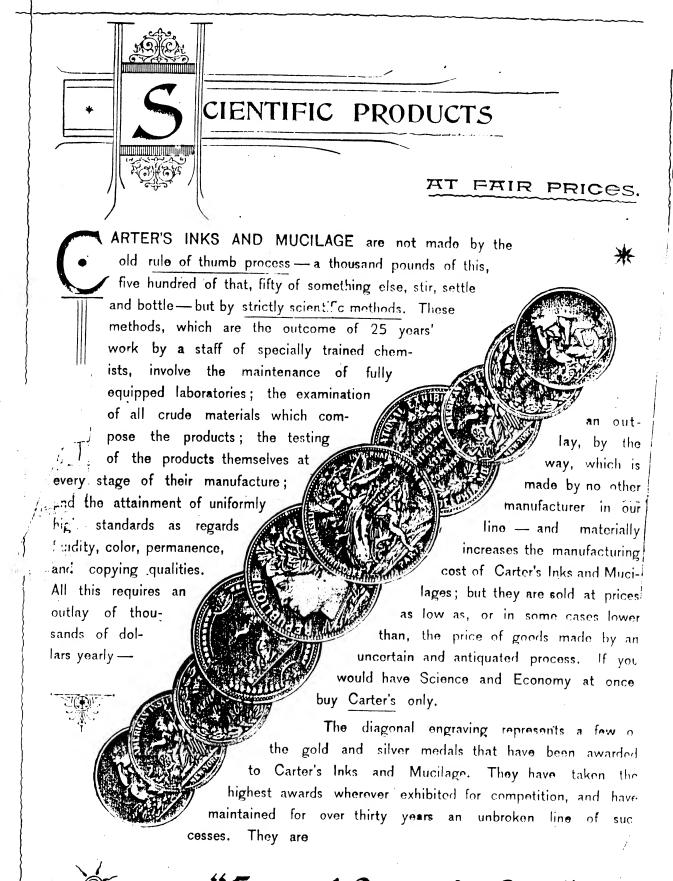
and it seems quite clear that the poor beast would end his days in a torment of doubt, and would starve to death most piteously ! \*\*\* So would it be with you, kind reader. should the stern decree of fate ever place you upon the central point, to a hair's breadth, of the line between one bottle of Carter's ink and another of like size and kind. The dazzlingly handsome label of the one would be offset by the symmetrical beauty of the other; the patent pour-out here would have its counterpart there; the rich coloring of this fluid would only bespeak the perfect chemical purity of that : and you would perish most miserably, in an agony of indecision, amid a fatal embarrassment of riches!  $*_*$  It would be different, however, and your life would be saved, if one bottle were filled with Carter's Combined Ink, and the other with Carter's Writing Fluid; for in that case you would not hesitate at all, but would choose the one article or the other according to your needs. If you wished an ink so perfectly fluid that the pen would outrun the thought, so skilfully compounded that the finest lines would exemplify the pleasing paradox of easy expertness, and so highly attractive to the eye that nothing could exceed the beauty of its fresh appearance except its later brilliancy, you would choose at once Carter's Writing Fluid. If, on the other hand, you desired an ink combining in golden measure all these excellences, with the important quality of giving one or more distinct copies, you would choose with as little hesitancy Carter's Combined Ink. Whether you choose the Writing Fluid or the Combined Ink or any other Ink that is Carter's, you would get the very best of its class. Carter's Mucilage is just as good as Carter's Ink.

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ARTER'S COMBINED INK is the original combined ink, and has been easily first among products of its class for nearly two generations. It has the facile flow of a fluid, and yet gives one or two perfect copies. It makes a jet black permanent record.

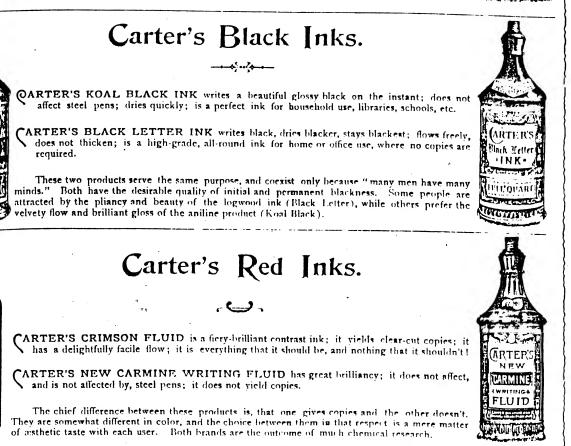
**CARTER'S WRITING FLUID**, in stone or glass bottles at buyers' option, stands for perfection in ledger inks — rich in color, smooth in flow, and absolutely permanent.

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Both these staples of the stationery trade are nut-gall and iron inks, and exemplify in full measure the well-known virtues of such products. They write blue-black from the pen, but quickly become an ineffaceable jet black. They are excellent fountain-pen inks. They are everything that modern science can make them.



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JUSTIFY their name. A thorough-going chemical and physical test of the leading ribbons and carbons on the market confirmed our belief that perfect products of this class had not been attained, nor hardly approached, in any existing brands. A varied course of experimentation, conducted by skillful and learned chemists in a laboratory perfectly equipped for accurate results, could have only one conclusion; and Carter's Ideal Ribbons and Carbons represent in tangible form the complete mastery of the problems involved. The Ribbons are characterized by brilliancy and fullness of impressions, superiority of copying properties, non-filling of type, permanence of ink, strength of color, and fullness of length. The Carbon Papers are uniform in quality, reasonably impervious to age, yield clear-cut impressions, and do not smootch.